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URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the YEAR 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ..... 1984. Population - Census, 1931 - 6660.

Registrar-General's estimate  
of Population, mid-1947 ..... 5888.

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census, 1931 - 1458.  
(b) End of 1947 according to rate books -  
1595.

Rateable value ... £20,723. Sum represented by a penny rate - £80.6.

Estimate of the population under 15 years as at 30th June, 1947:-

Number of children aged 0 - 4 years (inclusive) - 510.  
" " " 5 - 14 " " - 870.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

It is now quarter of a century since I was appointed your Medical Officer of Health and as I look back over these twenty-five years I see great changes in the social conditions of our colliery township.

The houses you have built and are still building for the inhabitants greatly enhance the appearance of Abram; but I see an even greater change in the people of the district brought about by the improved social conditions. They look happier and more contented with life. They are better clothed and have increased their inherent pride.

Most of the people are employed at the collieries. Many work in surrounding towns - cotton mills, silk works etc. We also have our small agricultural and dairy farms in Abram.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	122	67	55
Illegitimate	7	5	2
Total	129	72	57

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1947 - 21.9

<u>Stillbirths:</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	3	0	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 22.

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
76	43	33

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population - 12.9.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis - Nil.  
Other maternal causes - Nil.

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	69
Legitimate infants per 1,000 ...	65
legitimate live births	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 ...	142
illegitimate live births	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ...	5
" " Measles (all ages) ... ... ...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough ... ... ...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	5	4
Legitimate	4	4
Illegitimate	1	

<u>Per 1,000 of estimated population.</u>				
	<u>Live birth rate</u>	<u>Crude death rate</u>	<u>Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System</u>	<u>Death rate from Cancer</u>
	<u>rate</u>	<u>rate</u>	<u>System</u>	<u>Cancer</u>

Mean of 5 years, 1942 - 1946	19.4	12.6	0.24	1.57
Year 1946	18.1	13.1	0.17	1.53
" 1947	21.9	12.9	0.16	0.84

Increase or decrease in

1947 on:-

5 years' average, 1942-1946	+2.5	+0.3	-0.08	-0.73
Previous year	+3.8	-0.2	-0.01	-0.69

	<u>Per 1,000 live births</u>	<u>Per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>	<u>Death rate under 1 year per 1,000 live births</u>
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Mean of 5 years, 1942 - 1946	Nil	Nil	48
Year 1946	Nil	Nil	47
" 1947	Nil	Nil	69

Increase or decrease in

1947 on:-

5 years' average, 1942-1946	Nil	Nil	+21
Previous year	Nil	Nil	+22

CAUSES OF DEATHS:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
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Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1
Acute encephalitis	1	-
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	2
Heart diseases	13	7
Other diseases of the circulatory system	3	6
Bronchitis	2	3

<u>CAUSES OF DEATHS (Contd.)</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	Brought forward	29	22
Pneumonia		3	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years		2	1
Other digestive diseases		1	1
Nephritis		1	1
Premature births		2	1
Congenital injuries and diseases etc.		-	1
Suicide		1	-
Road traffic accidents		2	-
Other violent causes		1	2
All other causes		2	4
Total		<u>43</u>	<u>33</u>

AGE INCIDENCE:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Under one year	5	4
1 - 2 years	-	-
2 - 5 "	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	-
10 - 20 "	2	2
20 - 40 "	1	1
40 - 50 "	2	2
50 - 65 "	7	9
65 years and over	26	15
Total	<u>43</u>	<u>33</u>

Unusual or Excessive Mortality. - There has been no unusual or excessive mortality. True the infantile mortality is slightly higher than the last few years, this being due to three infants dying from diarrhoea. There was a prevalence of enteritis.

Sickness and Invalidity. - Fifty cases of measles were notified and with one exception the disease was confined to children.

There have been fewer accidents at the collieries but industrial diseases have probably increased.

Public Health Officers of the Authority. - Mr. H. Allen who holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute is the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and is whole-time employed.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time servant.

Laboratory Facilities. - Pathological specimens are sent for examination to Manchester Public Health Laboratories and Wigan Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities. - Abram has been well served with ambulances and no difficulties have arisen.

Abram, Hindley and Ince joint ambulance service has worked smoothly. It undertakes the removal of non-infectious cases.

Infectious cases are dealt with by Astley Sanatorium ambulance.

For maternity cases and others Billinge Hospital has its own ambulance for taking patients to that hospital.

The collieries have their own arrangements for ambulance cases and are well served.

Nursing in the Home. - The Abram Nursing Association employs a full time nurse. The County Health Visitor is responsible for children under school age; she directs in their treatment when that falls within her jurisdiction.

Child Welfare and Ante Natal Care. - The Lancashire County Council have a centre for this work situated behind the Abram Council Offices. It is an army hut. The centre is open each Wednesday; and on Saturday mornings the nurse attends for distribution of milk.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases. - Abram is a member of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board which has an infectious diseases hospital at Astley. The accommodation is ample having eighteen beds for Smallpox cases, and one hundred and twelve beds for other types of infectious cases.

Infectious Diseases Generally. - There were ninety cases of infectious diseases notified in 1947 as compared with one hundred and forty six in 1946.

There were only two cases of poliomyelitis notified during 1947 and both patients made a complete recovery.

One case of diphtheria and one of cerebro-spinal fever were notified. Recovery was complete in both cases.

Measles and Scarlet Fever were of a mild type.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Supplies. - Supplies are kept at the house of the medical officer. Fortunately there has been little demand for its use on account of the tremendous fall in number of cases of diphtheria during the last few years.

There are no supplies of other sera in the district but if required they could be promptly obtained and supplied to practitioners free of charge.

Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens Examined: - Diphtheria - 2.

Diphtheria Immunisation. - Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Child Welfare centre each Wednesday afternoon. General practitioners may be supplied free of charge with the serum.

The response for artificial immunisation has been about the average appertaining in the country.

No. of persons who received artificial immunisation during the year:

- |                            |      |                       |        |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|
| (i) pre-school children .. | 34.  | Prophylactics used .. | A.P.T. |
| (ii) school children ..    | 4.   | Prophylactics used .. | A.P.T. |
| (iii) adults ..            | Nil. | Prophylactics used .. | -      |

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st December, 1947:

	Under 5 years of age.	Over 5 and under 15 yrs. of age.	Total under 15 years of age.
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Number of the child population protected by artificial immunisation up to 31st December, 1947.

189	561	750
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Percentage of the total number of children in the age group.

37%	64%	54%
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/contd.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all Under ages.	1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	and over
Scarlet fever	13				1	1	6	3	1	1			
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1						1						
Measles (excluding rubella)	50	3	10	5	5	15	11					1	
Whooping cough	6		2	2		1	1						
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	14		2					2		3	1	3	3
Cerebro-spinal fever	1						1						
Acute poliomyelitis	2			2									
Acute encephalitis lethargica	1								1				
Erysipelas	2											2	
Totals	90	5	14	7	6	17	20	5	2	3	2	6	3

Total deaths: Acute encephalitis lethargica .. 1.

Total cases removed to hospital:

Scarlet Fever.....	6
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).....	1
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal).....	1
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	1
Acute poliomyelitis.....	1
Acute encephalitis lethargica.....	1

Disinfection after infectious disease: -

No. of houses disinfected during 1947 ... 18.  
Method - Sulphur Dioxide.

TUBERCULOSIS  
New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 years	0	0	1	0				
10 "	0	0	1	0				
15 "					0	1	0	0
Totals	Nil		2	0	0	1		Nil
			2		0	1		

All the cases have been previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis.

Housing.

New Houses. - During 1947 the Council have erected 26 houses which have been let and 46 others are in various stages of construction.

Arrangements are also nearing completion for the erection of 72 B.I.S.F. prefabricated permanent houses to be specially allocated to coal miners.

There is a great demand for new houses mainly of the three bedroom type. 425 applications for council houses have been received from residents within the district.

Housing Conditions. - The majority of the houses in the district are over 40 years old, of the terrace and two bedroom type. Mining subsidence causes serious damage to the structures and drainage systems and also restricts the availability of sites for the erection of new houses.

The shortage of labour and materials and the restriction on licensing have considerably restricted repairs to houses.

Overcrowding. - The shortage of new houses causes married sons and daughters to remain with their parents after marriage and thus aggravates the overcrowding position.

No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	-	27
No. of families dwelling therein	-	41
No. of persons " "	-	147
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-	9
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-	2
No. of persons concerned in such cases	-	8

Water Supply. - The supply to all parts of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is a piped supply to every house in the township.

The following examinations of the water were made:-

	No.	Result
Bacteriological examination	1	Satisfactory
Chemical Analysis	1	Satisfactory

#### Sanitary Inspections during 1947:-

No. of premises visited - 621.

#### Defects or nuisances. -

No. discovered	-	277
No. abated	-	251
No. of notices served:		
Informal	109	
Statutory	<u>29</u>	- 138

Legal Proceedings: No. 1. Result - Court order and costs.

Disinfestation. - Four houses have been treated for the eradication of bed bugs and no cases of reinfestation have been encountered.

The Council's rodent operator has dealt with all cases of rodent infestation and systematically surveyed the whole of the district.

Canal Boats. - No. inspected - 8. No. of infringements - 1.

<u>Milk Supply.</u> - No. of dairy farms	-	16
No. of cows (approximate)	-	161
No. of milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)	-	1
No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurized" milk (Retail distribution)	-	2

Examinations of milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli:-

No. of samples submitted	-	16
Results: Positive	Nil	
Negative	<u>16</u>	- 16

Bacteriological Examinations: - 26

Results: Satisfactory	15
Unsatisfactory	<u>11</u>

- 7 -

Factories Act, 1937. - No matter has arisen to which special attention needs to be made.

Signed,

A R Enskine

Medical Officer of Health.

14th August, 1948.

